

I let nature be my guide when I began to create my garden out of untamed wilderness, conceived when we bought 103 acres and a ruined farmhouse in 1974.

Glenwhan is located in an area of immense natural beauty, 300 feet above sea level, overlooking Luce Bay, the Mull of Galloway and the Isle of Man.

In 1979 the land was thickly covered in bracken and gorse with an abundance of rushes and the odd willow and rowan (to keep the witches away!).

12 acres were fenced against rabbits and deer. A belt of trees were planted for shelter. The small lochans (lakes) were made by damming the boggy areas and stocked with brown trout and koi carp.

Due to the close proximity to the sea and the warming influences of the Gulf stream, a wide variety of plants from the Southern hemisphere flourish. Acid loving plants, rhododendrons and azaleas, luxuriate in the peaty ground (ph4.5). Moisture loving plants, primula and iris enjoy the bog. Sun-loving plants, rock roses and olearias are ideal for the south facing scree slopes. In late summer the hydrangeas are at their best. In spring carpets of snowdrops, bluebells and many unusual bulbs may be discovered. - Look out for red squirrels and many varieties of bird life.

Glenwhan is an on-going labour of love and will always be a wild garden. Every effort has been made to nurture and maintain the balance of nature in this peaceful and magical setting.



Making Tracks

The surrounding 17 acres of wild land is a mosaic of moorland, wetland and bog. Paths lead you among hawthorn, willow and rowan where you can smell the coconut scent of gorse in flower. Colourful native heather and wild thyme grow together among the rock outcrops. You may see harebells and orchids scattered through the grassland.

Over 120 species of grasses, ferns and wild flowers have been recorded – ask at the Teahouse for a list. Look out for different butterflies feeding on flowers. You may spot dragonflies and damselflies darting over the ponds. Raven with their distinctive “prruk” call, and peregrine, soar over the moor looking for prey. Snipe hide in the tall grass, as siskin, goldfinch and yellow hammer flit through the scrub.

Thank you for keeping your dog on a lead. Please respect the wildlife by staying on the grass paths.



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